

2007 Farm Bill Forestry Title:

Protecting and Sustaining Healthy Forests

- **Protects the future of our forests.**
 - Sets new national private forest conservation priorities
 - Directs states to conduct assessments of current forest resources.
 - Requires states to develop a long-term strategy for forest resource management.
- **Increases efficiency in existing forestry programs.**
 - Improves cooperation between the government, private landowners and the conservation community in the newly renamed Forest Resource Coordinating Committee.
 - Reauthorizes the Office of International Forestry, which promotes sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation internationally.
- **Improves biodiversity, fights global warming and protects endangered species.**
 - Extends and provides \$17 million per year for the successful Healthy Forest Reserve Program, which helps private forestland owners protect endangered species.
 - Continues the Emergency Forestry Conservation Program, which helps eligible landowners and operators restore and enhance forestland damaged by natural disasters, including hurricanes, for non-industrial forest lands.
- **Helps the nation become more energy independent.**
 - Reauthorizes Rural Revitalization Technologies to address the use of forest biomass in energy production.
- **Creates new opportunities for socially disadvantaged workers.**
 - Establishes a grant program to recruit and train Hispanics and underserved groups for careers in forestry and related fields.

Farm Bill Forestry Program Facts:

- Government funds first went to forestry issues to study western forests in the 1877 Agriculture Appropriations Act.

- The Division of Forestry was established in the Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 1881, but the Forest Service was not created until 1905.

- Forests provide a broad array of environmental services to the American people, most notably clean air and water, wildlife habitats, pleasant scenery, and renewable energy as well.

- The economies of many rural communities have depended on the use of forest resources, whether it be in finding, extracting, processing, or selling the products.